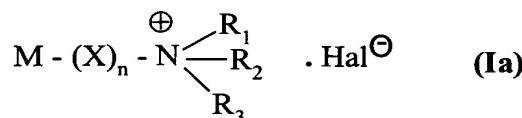


ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

NEW QUATERNARY AMMONIUM COMPOUNDS

A compound of formula corresponding to either formula (Ia) or (Ib) :



5 wherein :

M represents a molecule that can be used for the treatment or diagnosis of pathologies caused by attack on the cartilage,

R₁, R₂ and R₃ represent alkyl,

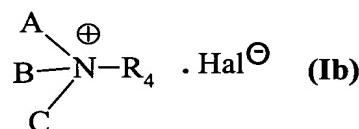
or R₁, R₂ and R₃, together with the nitrogen atom carrying them, form a heterocycle,

10 X represents a (C₁-C₆)alkylene chain in which one or more -CH₂- groups are optionally replaced by sulphur, oxygen, or -NR-, -CO-, -CO-NH-, -CO₂-, -SO- or -SO₂-,

n represents 0 or 1,

Hal represents halogen,

or,



15 R₄ represents alkyl,

Hal represents halogen,

$\begin{array}{c} A \\ | \\ B - N \\ | \\ C \end{array}$ represents a molecule that can be used for the treatment or diagnosis of pathologies caused by attack on the cartilage, wherein the nitrogen atom may optionally be included in a saturated or unsaturated nitrogen-containing heterocyclic system, or included in a double bond.